Improvement of rural tele-density in Orissa

1675. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI has set up Rs. 6,500 crore rural telephony subsidy and sharing of infrastructure by service providers, to improve rural telephony;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of Government to improve the rural tele-density in Orissa State under the above project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. TRAI has not set up any rural telephone subsidy. However, TRAI in its recommendations "Growth of Telecom Services in Rural India—The way Forward" has recommended support for sharing of infrastructure by service providers to improve rural telephony.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Waiting list for landline and mobile connections of BSNL

1676. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending for landline and BSNL mobile connections during the last three years;

(b) the reasons behind the delay in installing landlines and providing mobile connections; and

(c) what steps are being taken to expedite the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD):(a) Sir, number of applications pending for landline and mobile connections of

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for the last three years is as follows:—

Waiting list for landline and mobile connections

As one	Landline	Mobile
30.9.2003	18,89,433	*
30.9.2004	17,12,076	*
30.9.2005	16,78,601	14,27,931

*Waiting list for mobile connections was not maintained earlier.

(b) In case of fixed line connections, BSNL is providing them on demand in most of the urban areas. However, in some rural areas, BSNL's telecom network is not available in far flung locations to cater to the scattered demand. In most of these areas, laying of telecom network is techno commercially not feasible. As regards mobile telephones release of connections has been controlled due to capacity constraints in some circles.

(c) Some of the steps taken by BSNL to provide telephone connections in such areas are as follows:—

(i) It has been planned to cover all Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) in the country by deploying Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) systems in a big way.

(ii) The norms for laying cable of external plant have been relaxed to 5 Kms against the earlier standard of 2.5 Kms. in places where sizable demand can be catered by this relaxation.

(iii) In case of cellular mobile services, release of connection in some circles is being temporarily controlled due to capacity constraints and to provide trouble free services.

(iv) BSNL is in process of augmenting the cellular mobile capacity. The present waiting list is likely to be cleared by the end of current financial year.

Telephone facility in Jharkhand villages

†1677. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.